

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion and in view of the present amendment, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 8, 15, and 17 have been amended. Claims 2 and 9 have been cancelled. New claim 18 has been added. Claims 1, 3-8, and 10-18 are pending and under consideration.

Applicant has timely filed a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) along with this Amendment, including the filing fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the finality of any Office action and enter this Amendment for consideration under 37 CFR 1.114.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, at pages 2-5, claims 1-6, 8-10, 12-13, and 15-17 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ananian (U.S. Patent No. 7,013,290).

Ananian does not discuss or suggest “a storage unit that stores the first purchase information obtained by the account information input/output section and stores purchase identification information to uniquely identify the first purchase information” and “the searching unit searches the storage unit for the first purchase information corresponding to the purchase identification information, which is received from the second person as the search condition,” as recited in amended claim 1. In other words, the invention of claim 1 provides for securing the first purchase information obtained by the first person by storing *purchase identification information* to uniquely identify the first purchase information. In turn, the second person can access the first purchase information by use of the purchase identification information, which can be provided by the second person as a search condition. In this manner, *only the first person and the second person are allowed access to the first purchase information* and this access is granted only through use of purchase identification information that is known only to the first person and the second person, and, therefore, greater security of the information is ensured. Ananian, as relied upon by the Examiner, merely provides that a user can share one or more catalog items with another user, allowing catalog groupings to move freely from one account or device to another. However, Ananian concedes that these features would require a mutual agreement between users to share personal catalog selections, thereby eliminating the security feature provided for by the invention of claim 1. In fact, Ananian fails to disclose providing purchase identification information that identifies the purchase information and, in fact, provides no secure identification information at all for a user’s catalog selections and no means

for accessing purchase information by using the identification information as a search criteria or condition.

Since Ananian does not discuss or suggest “a storage unit that stores the first purchase information obtained by the account information input/output section and stores purchase identification information to uniquely identify the first purchase information” and “the searching unit searches the storage unit for the first purchase information corresponding to the purchase identification information, which is received from the second person as the search condition,” as recited in amended claim 1, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Ananian. Accordingly, withdrawal of this § 102(e) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-6 and 16 depend either directly or indirectly from amended claim 1, and include all the features of claim 1, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the reference relied upon. Therefore, claims 3-6 and 16 patentably distinguish over the reference relied upon for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of these § 102(b) rejections is respectfully requested.

Ananian does not discuss or suggest “storing the first purchase information obtained and storing purchase identification information to uniquely identify the first purchase information” and “the receiving includes receiving the purchase identification information, as the search condition, from the second person, and the searching includes searching the storage unit for the first purchase information corresponding to the purchase identification information received,” as recited in amended claims 8 and 15. Therefore, claims 8 and 15 patentably distinguish over Ananian. Accordingly, withdrawal of these § 102(e) rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 10 and 12-13 depend either directly or indirectly from amended claim 8, and include all the features of claim 8, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the reference relied upon. Therefore, claims 10 and 12-13 patentably distinguish over the reference relied upon for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of these § 102(e) rejections is respectfully requested.

Ananian does not discuss or suggest “a storage unit that stores the first purchase information obtained by the account information input/output section and stores purchase identification information to uniquely identify the first purchase information” and “the storage unit is searched for the first purchase information corresponding to the purchase identification information, which is received from the second person as a search condition,” as recited in amended claim 17. Therefore, claim 17 patentably distinguishes over Ananian. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 102(e) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2 and 9 have been cancelled. Accordingly, withdrawal of these § 102(e) rejections is respectfully requested.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, at pages 6-7, claims 7, 11, and 14 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ananian in view of Greef (U.S. Patent No. 6,032,129).

As discussed above, Ananian does not discuss or suggest all of the features of claim 1. Greef fails to make up for these deficiencies. Specifically, Greef does not discuss or suggest “a storage unit that stores the first purchase information obtained by the account information input/output section and stores purchase identification information to uniquely identify the first purchase information” and “the searching unit searches the storage unit for the first purchase information corresponding to the purchase identification information, which is received from the second person as the search condition,” as recited in amended claim 1.

Claims 7 and 16 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and include all the features of claim 1, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the references relied upon. Therefore, claims 7 and 16 patentably distinguish over the references relied upon for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of these § 103(a) rejections is respectfully requested.

Greef does not discuss or suggest “storing the first purchase information obtained and storing purchase identification information to uniquely identify the first purchase information” and “the receiving includes receiving the purchase identification information, as the search condition, from the second person, and the searching includes searching the storage unit for the first purchase information corresponding to the purchase identification information received,” as recited in amended claim 8.

Claims 14 depends from claim 8 and includes all the features of claim 8, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the references relied upon. Therefore, claim 14 patentably distinguishes over the references relied upon for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

III. New Claim

New claim 18 has been added. None of the cited prior art discusses or suggests:

storing purchase identification information to uniquely identify the first purchase information;

receiving the purchase identification information as a search

from a second person;

and

searching for the first purchase information corresponding to the search condition,

as recited in new claim 18, so that claim 18 patentably distinguishes over the cited prior art.

Thus, it is submitted that claim 18 is in a condition suitable for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1, 3-8, and 10-18 are pending and under consideration.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

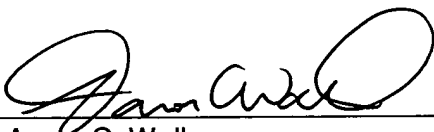
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 3-28-07

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